

Mini Grants Available to Help Students Develop Healthy Habits!

December 18, 2008

Dear School Personnel,

The *Healthy Habits* Challenge is a weekly school-based program that motivates students, staff and families to eat healthy and be physically active. Two dietitians in Billings, Montana developed the Healthy Habits Challenge. It has proven to be an ideal way to get children and their families involved in supporting the school wellness policy. Your school now has the opportunity to apply for mini-grant funds in order to implement the *Healthy Habits Challenge*.

This *Healthy Habits Challenge Grant* is being offered as a service of the Montana Team Nutrition Program, a USDA funded grant awarded to the Montana Office of Public Instruction. There is a total of \$6,000 available to fund mini-grants to support schools implementing the Healthy Habits Challenge. Mini-grants of up to **\$500 each** will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to schools that demonstrate they have the necessary components in place to successfully implement the Healthy Habits Program.

Please share this letter and mini-grant application with interested teachers, administrators, school food service personnel and parent groups. Grants may be submitted and awarded on an ongoing first-come first serve basis until December 1, 2009 or all funds are exhausted. The grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2010. A brief final report is due by August 31, 2010.

Awards will be provided based on the following criteria based on an 100 point scale (75 points is the minimum score to receive funding)

- Your school must be a Team Nutrition School. Check the following web site to see if your school is one: www.teamnutrition.usda.gov. If not, fill out and fax (703-305-2549) the Enrollment Form (Attachment A) to the USDA. Submit a copy of the completed enrollment form with the application. (5 points)
- Does the plan promote a collaborative approach among school and community? (10 points)
- Does the plan identify projected outcomes and is the plan well thought-out? (45 points)
- Is there a plan to keep the program sustainable? (10 points)
- How is the project linked with the school district's wellness policy? (5 points)
- Is the budget appropriate for the project? (Attachment D - Budget form). (25 points)

If you have questions or would like an electronic copy of this application, contact Katie Bark at 406-994-5641 or kbark@mt.gov.

This mini-grant application packet are also available at the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs Web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/grants.html>.

Montana Team Nutrition Program

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*In cooperation with the
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